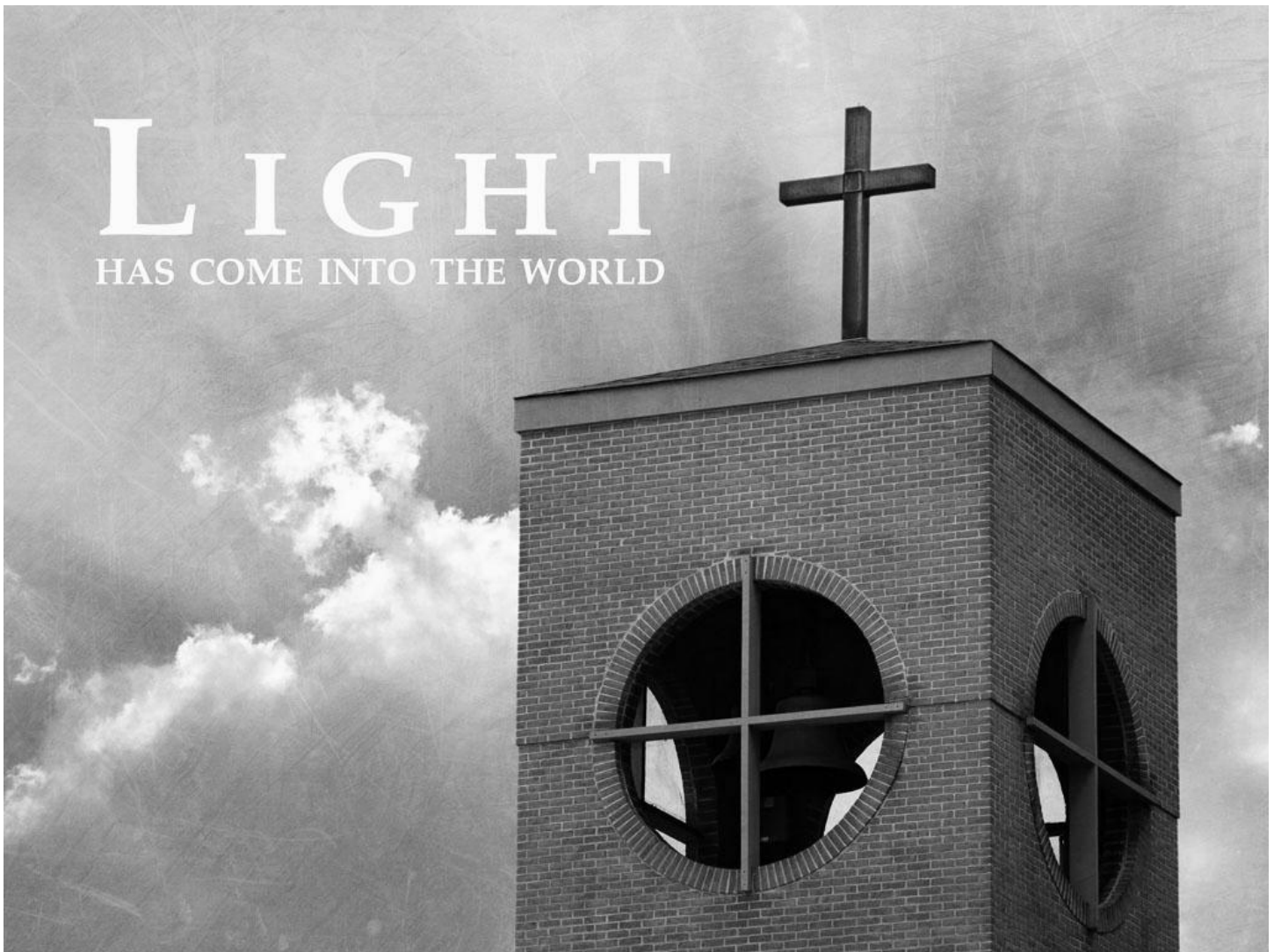


An evening setting of Holy Communion



St. David's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Saturday, September 16, 2017

5:30 pm

Holy Communion

Interim Pastor: Rev. Larry Hoover

Interim: Bishop Emeritus Gregory Pile

Guest Pastor; Rev. Nelson Ilgenfritz

Church: 479-4110; Fax: 479-2994

www.stdavidslutheran.org

Welcome to St. David's Lutheran Church!

We are blessed by your presence and honored that you have chosen to worship with us today. Please take a moment to sign the friendship sheet that is located in the booklet at the end of each pew, near the center aisle. These sheets will be collected with the offering.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is offered to all who are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit and who recognize the Sacrament as the true body and blood of our Lord. Baptized children are also welcome to the Lord's table at St. David's with the guidance and consent of their parents or guardians.

Prayer Requests may be made by placing the request in the small wooden box at the rear, near the doors through which you entered. The acolyte will collect the requests and they will be included during the prayers of the congregation.

For your comfort there is a restroom and a water fountain located upstairs. Simply exit through the double doors back into the narthex. The restroom is straight ahead in the parlor, beside the grandfather clock, and the water fountain is to the right at the beginning of the hallway.

Devotional –Copies of Scripture readings for the month of December, Gospel Messages for Advent, Christ in Our Home (large print) devotions and The Word in Season devotions are located on the table in the back, next to the prayer box.

For your convenience there is a cry room for infants, equipped with changing table and supplies, a crib, rocking chairs, blankets, and toys. Simply exit through the double doors back into the narthex, turn right down the hallway, and it is the last room on the left.

INTRODUCTION

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly stands.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Rejoicing in the abundant and steadfast love of God in Christ Jesus, emboldened and called by the power of the Holy Spirit, and trusting in the healing and forgiveness of the God who is Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit let us confess our sin.

(Kneel or Stand) Silence is kept for reflection.

Just and gracious God,

**you call us into the freedom of light and life in your presence,
yet we choose the darkness and bondage of sin.**

**Our lives bear the wounds of that sin,
the sin of our own action,**

**unholy thoughts, unholy words, unholy deeds,
and the sin of our own inaction,**

injustice ignored, kindness not done, humility not shown.

Heal the wounds of our sin, forgive us, renew us, free us.

**Let the power of your Holy Spirit reign over us,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

People of God:

When we were dead in our trespasses, God made us alive together with Christ, nailing the record of our sins to the cross. Therefore, as a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sin, in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The assembly stands.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE

In peace let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us gracious Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. . . .

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 50:15-21

A reading from Genesis the 50th chapter.

{After Jacob's death, the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.}

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON: Romans 14:1-12

A reading from Romans the 14th chapter.

{This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.}

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. ⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew the 18th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

{When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.}

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt.

²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’

³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

Silence for reflection may follow.

The assembly stands.

Together we confess our faith:

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

Good and gracious God, we pray for the church. Bless the ministries of congregations in our community (*here specific local congregations may be named*). Unite us in the proclamation of your life-giving gospel. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creator God, you spoke light into being, you separated the waters, you formed the dry land. Protect and enliven the creation you so love, and make us willing partners in its care. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of the nations, you love all tribes, peoples, and languages. We pray for all who govern. Give them wise and generous hearts for those they serve. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Divine Healer, calm the anxiety of those who are wrongly accused, who suffer under crushing debt, or who are in prison. Reassure those who are lonely, impatient, brokenhearted, homebound, hospitalized, or ill (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this assembly; for our guests and visitors, for newcomers to this community, for those who are certain and those who doubt, and for all who seek you in this place. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We remember and give thanks for the faithful of every age who did not live to themselves but lived to you (*especially Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen*). Raise us with them on the last day. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting the power of Christ and the gifts of the Spirit. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

The minister and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Peace be with you.

Peace be with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN

The assembly stands.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Merciful Father,

we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

All glory to you, Almighty God, heavenly Father:

out of Your great love for us You gave Your only Son Jesus,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have
eternal life.

It was your Son Jesus

who freely surrendered Himself to suffer death
on the cross for us and for our salvation.

There, on that cross,

He willingly offered Himself up as a full,
perfect, and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

By that gift of love and grace

we are your people,
born of water and word,
served, fed, and forgiven at your Holy Table
and called together by Your Holy Spirit.

Therefore we offer ourselves

as disciples who follow
as witnesses to the world
and as living memory of His gift of grace.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine,
that they may be for us the body and blood of your Son our Lord.

Amen, come Lord Jesus.

On the night in which He was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup,
gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink,
saying: This cup is the new covenant
in my blood, shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us:

as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,
so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth,
that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son our Lord.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.**

The assembly is seated.

The Holy Communion is distributed with these or similar words:

The body of Christ, given for you

The blood of Christ, shed for you

COMMUNION HYMN

Following the Holy Communion the congregation stands:

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

QUIET MEDITATION

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A World without Scarcity

We can easily remember the times in our lives when someone has been generous to us—whether by giving us a second chance financially or by pouring their time and energy into helping us succeed. Even the smallest moment of generosity can become a memory of great significance to us, one that brings joy and hope. Yet on a daily basis it can be easy to forget such moments of generosity when the world around us is filled with messages of scarcity. We are told that there is not enough—not enough money, jobs, resources, time, or even love—to go around.

Peter's question in today's gospel about how many times he ought to forgive someone is grounded in this kind of thinking. Faced with Peter's fear of scarcity, Jesus' response reveals his own confidence that there is always more love and more forgiveness to give. Jesus' words to Peter are grounded in his faith in an infinitely loving God whose mercy knows no limits. This kind of generosity is reflected in Jesus' parable when the king forgives a debt that would have been impossible to pay back. The king's action in the parable calls us to respond to the needs we see around us for forgiveness, for assistance, or for the use of our gifts with a generosity that comes from God.

When we gather as a Christian community for worship, we proclaim God's generous outpouring of love on us throughout history and our own lives. We come to hear Jesus respond to the narratives of scarcity around us with a narrative of abundance and generous giving—the narrative of his own life. When our time together ends, we are sent out to continue writing that story into the world around us through the generosity God has inspired in us.

Daily Readings for the Week September 17-23

Sunday:	<p style="text-align: right;">Genesis 50:15-21 Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13 Romans 14:1-12 Matthew 18:21-35</p>
Monday:	<p style="text-align: right;">Psalm 133 Genesis 48:8-22 Hebrews 11:23-29</p>
Tuesday:	<p style="text-align: right;">Psalm 133 Genesis 49:29—50:14 Romans 14:13—15:2</p>
Wednesday:	<p style="text-align: right;">Psalm 133 Genesis 50:22-26 Mark 11:20-25</p>
Thursday:	<p style="text-align: right;">Psalm 145:1-8 Nahum 1:1, 14—2:2 2 Corinthians 13:1-42</p>
Friday:	<p style="text-align: right;">Psalm 145:1-8 Nahum 2:3-13 2 Corinthians 13:5-10</p>
Saturday:	<p style="text-align: right;">Psalm 145:1-8 Zephaniah 2:13-15 Matthew 19:23-30</p>

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